

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10305 201652Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----014446 202134Z /44
R 201612Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6368

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10305

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG
SUBJ: STATUS OF KAISOUNI AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS

REF (A) CAIRO 10142, (B) STATE 138824,

1. HAD OPPORTUNITY TO SOUND OUT SEPARATELY SADAT, KAISOUNI AND MINECON, HAMID EL-SAYIGH RE ECONOMIC TEAM CURRENT STATUS AND RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRESIDENT. FORM THESE TALKS, I CONCLUDE BENJENK'S CONCERN IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

2. WHEN TOLD THAT GOV GILLIGAN WOULD BE MEETING WITH KAISOUNI LATER IN THE EVENING, SADAT YESTERDAY EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE TAKING PLACE. TODAY, WHEN I MET WITH SADAT ON A OTHER MATTER AND TOLD HIM OF GOV GILLIGAN'S MEETING OF LAST NIGHT WITH KAISOUNI AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS GLAD. HE HAD FULL CONFIDENCE IN KAISOUNI AND HIS ECONOMIC COLLEAGUES.

3. LAST EVENING, TOO, BOTH KAISOUNI AND MINECON HAMID EL-SAYIGH, SEPARATELY, VOLUNTEERED THEIR GRATIFICATION OVER THE "STRONG SUPPORT" WHICH THEY ARE GETTING FROM THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF THESE DAYS. IN CONTRAST TO THE PAST, THE NOTED, SADAT IS SHOWING CONSIDERABLE DIRECT INTEREST IN THE ECONOMY AND IS LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT KAISOUNI AND HIS TEAM ARE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 10305 201652Z

SPEAKING FOR HIM. PRIMIN MAMDUH SALEM AOS SUPPORTING THEM AS ARE "MOST" MEMBERS OF CABINET.

4. RE MINPLAN, SADAT INDICATED THAT HE HAD AGREED TO LET ABDEL MEGUID GO TO UN (UNIDO) JOB, BUT ONLY AFTER "PLAN" IS COMPLETED. HAMID EL-SAYIGH TOLD ME THAT ABDEL MEGUID MAY STILL BE AROUND TILL SEPT, OCT OR NOV, AND ABDEL MEGUID CONFIRMED

THIS, ALTHOUGH HE WILL BE GONG TO US FOR THREE OR FOUR WEEKS
EARLY NEXT MONTH. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION TO SADAT
OUR HOPE THAT A STRONG, DYNAMIC INDIVIDUAL WILL BE CHOSEN
TO REPLACE ABDEL MEGUID. SADAT OPINED THERE ARE OTHER GOOD
EGYPTIAN ECONOMISTS, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WILL BE
DIFFICULT TO FIND ANYONE AS "DYNAMIC" AS ABDEL MEGUID. HE
APPEARED TO HAVE IN MIND AN EGYPTIAN ECONOMIST NOW WORKING
IN THE GULF, BUT GAVE NO NAME.
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 10305 201652Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO10305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770220-0156
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770641/aaaabjlx.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a859827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 CAIRO 10142, 77 STATE 138824
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2099531
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF KAISSOUNI AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS
TAGS: PGOV, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a859827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009